

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1           1. A system for identifying and selecting at least
- 2 one data resource in a data store, comprising:
- 3           a machine-readable label (MRL) reader with a user
- 4 interface;
- 5           a resource base having resources;
- 6           at least one processor connected to said reader
- 7 to receive MRL data from said MRL and to control and
- 8 receive data from said user interface;
- 9           said at least one processor being programmed to
- 10 generate a query for use in searching said resource base
- 11 responsively to said MRL data;
- 12           said at least one processor being programmed to
- 13 generate a query to identify at least one resource matching
- 14 said query and determine a confidence level of said
- 15 matching;
- 16           said at least one processor being programmed such
- 17 that when said confidence level is lower than a
- 18 predetermined confidence level, said at least one processor
- 19 receives input from said user interface defining a new
- 20 resource and stores said new resource in said resource base
- 21 or another resource base.

22           2. A system as in claim 1, wherein said MRL  
23 includes a radio transponder or transmitter.

1           3. A system as in claim 1, wherein:

2           said at least one processor is programmed such  
3 that when said confidence level is higher than said  
4 predetermined confidence level, said at least one processor  
5 receives input from said user interface indicating a  
6 desirability of said at least one resource to said user and  
7 to update a preference data store responsively to said  
8 input.

1           4. A system as in claim 1, wherein said at least  
2 one processor is programmed such that when said confidence  
3 level is lower than said predetermined confidence level,  
4 said at least one processor identifies a resource not  
5 matching said query by substituting a term in said query  
6 that identifies one of an object associated with said  
7 reader, an object associated with an MRL, or another term  
8 and searches responsively to said query for a resource and,  
9 upon finding said resource, generates an output responsive  
10 thereto.

1           5. A system as in claim 4, wherein said term is a  
2 term characterizing said object associated with said  
3 reader.

1           6. A system for identifying and selecting at least  
2 one data resource in a data store, comprising:  
3           a machine-readable label (MRL) reader with a user  
4 interface;  
5           a resource base having resources;  
6           at least one processor connected to said reader  
7 to receive MRL data from said MRL and to control and  
8 receive data from said user interface;  
9           said at least one processor being programmed to  
10 generate a query for use in searching said resource base  
11 responsively to said MRL data;  
12           said at least one processor being programmed to  
13 generate a query to identify at least one resource matching  
14 said query and determine a confidence level of said  
15 matching;  
16           said at least one processor being programmed such  
17 that when said confidence level is lower than a  
18 predetermined confidence level, said at least one processor  
19 identifies a resource not matching said query by  
20 substituting a term in said query that identifies one of an  
21 object associated with said reader, an object associated  
22 with an MRL, or another term and searches responsively to  
23 said query for a resource and, upon finding said resource,  
24 generates an output responsive thereto.

1           7. A system as in claim 6, wherein said MRL  
2 includes a radio transponder or transmitter.

1           8. A system as in claim 6, wherein:  
2           said at least one processor is programmed such  
3 that when said confidence level is higher than said  
4 predetermined confidence level, said at least one processor  
5 receives input from said user interface indicating a  
6 desirability of said at least one resource to said user and  
7 to update a preference data store responsively to said  
8 input.

1           9. A system as in claim 6, wherein said reader is  
2 programmed such that when said confidence level is lower  
3 than said predetermined confidence level, said at least one  
4 processor receives input from said user interface defining  
5 a new resource and stores said new resource in said  
6 resource base or another resource base.

1           10. A system as in claim 9, wherein said term is  
2 a term characterizing said object associated with said  
3 reader.

1           11. A system as in claim 6, wherein said reader  
2 is programmed such that when said confidence level is lower  
3 than said predetermined confidence level, said at least one  
4 processor identifies a generic resource responsive to said  
5 object associated with an MRL.

1           12. A system as in claim 11, wherein said reader  
2 is programmed such that when said confidence level is lower  
3 than said predetermined confidence level, said at least one  
4 processor receives input from said user interface defining  
5 a new resource and stores said new resource in said  
6 resource base or another resource base.

1           13. A method of identifying a resource in a  
2 resource base, comprising the steps of:

3           receiving machine-readable label (MRL) data from  
4 a MRL device;

5           generating a first query having multiple terms  
6 including one responsive to said MRL data;

7           using said first query to identify at least one  
8 resource in a resource base and generate a confidence level  
9 of a match between said first query and said at least one  
10 resource;

11           when said confidence level is lower than a  
12 predetermined level, generating a second query in which  
13 another term is substituted for one of said multiple terms  
14 and using said second query to identify at least one  
15 further resource in said resource base and generate a  
16 further confidence level of a match between said second  
17 query and said at least one further resource and if said  
18 further confidence level is higher than said predetermined

19 level or another predetermined level, generating a message  
20 responsive to said resource on a user interface.

1 14. A method as in claim 12, wherein said  
2 message suggests to a user that the user use a different  
3 one of an object associated with a reader and an object  
4 associated with an MRL.

1 15. A method as in claim 13, further comprising  
2 the steps of, when said further confidence level is lower  
3 than said predetermined level or another predetermined  
4 level, identifying a generic response using a third query  
5 with fewer terms than said first query or second queries.

1 16. A method of identifying a resource from a  
2 machine-readable label (MRL) reader, comprising the steps  
3 of:

4 scanning a MRL associated with a first object  
5 with a reader associated with a second object;

6 matching resources from a resource base based on  
7 a result of said step of scanning;

8 when a result of said step of scanning indicates  
9 a poor match, outputting to a user-interface, a message  
10 suggesting to a user to use a different one of said first  
11 and second objects.

1           17. A method of identifying a resource from a  
2 machine-readable label (MRL) reader, comprising the steps  
3 of:  
4           scanning a MRL associated with a first object  
5 with a reader associated with a second object;  
6           matching resources from a resource base based on  
7 identifiers corresponding to said first and second objects  
8 resulting from said step of scanning;  
9           when a result of said step of scanning indicates  
10 a poor match, outputting to a user-interface, identifying a  
11 resource matching resources from a resource base based on  
12 identifiers corresponding to only one of said first and  
13 second objects resulting from said step of scanning.